



October 30, 2019

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **WC Docket No. 11-42** - Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization
Notice of Forbearance from Lifeline Broadband Internet Access Service Requirements

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Lifeline Modernization Order ("Order"),¹ BEK Communications Cooperative ("BEK") (SAC 381604) hereby avails itself of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") grant of forbearance from the requirement to provide broadband Internet access service ("BIAS") as a Lifeline service. BEK may, however, voluntarily decide to offer and receive reimbursement for providing Lifeline-supported BIAS in the areas in which it is designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC"). Pursuant to the guidance provided in Public Notice DA 16-1316,² BEK provides the following information.

Carrier Name: BEK Communications Cooperative (SAC 381604)

ETC Designation Information: BEK Communications Cooperative is a rural incumbent local exchange carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in the state of North Dakota.

ETC Designation Order: In Case No. PU-418-00-555, the North Dakota Public Service Commission approved the expansion of its existing ETC designated service area originally approved by the ND Commission in accordance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Designating Authority: North Dakota Public Service Commission

¹ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) ("Lifeline Modernization Order").

² Public Notice, "Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted By Lifeline Modernization Order," "DA 16-11316 (rel. Nov. 22, 2016).

Type of Designation: High-cost support recipient (*i.e.* Not Lifeline-only)

Date of Designation: Expanded ETC Designated Service Area – December 20, 2000.

Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance: The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where BEK is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Company's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM II.

BEK has made every effort to comprehensively list all census blocks in the attached Excel file, but for the avoidance of confusion states that it intends for this list to cover all census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM II. In the event it is discovered that any census blocks were inadvertently omitted, BEK reserves the right to supplement this filing to make administrative corrections to the Excel file.

Date and Reason for Change: BEK received its first A-CAM II support payment on September 30, 2019. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.

Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband: Notwithstanding the forbearance relief BEK is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM II support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

For questions relating to this filing or if you require any additional information, please contact me at 701-475-1246 or brandonv@bektel.coop

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandon Vaughan CFO

ETC's Authorized Representative

Enclosures

cc: USAC via email - TelcoLifeline@usac.org